

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01170 121641Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 COME-00 EB-08
TRSE-00 /127 W
-----033436 122027Z /70

R 121521Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7450
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1170

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: BOTHA SAYS INDEPENDENCE DATE FLEXIBLE

1. THE WEEKEND ARGUS, JUNE 10, CITED WESTERN DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES AS INTERPRETING FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S REMARKS
ON NAMIBIA DURING THE RECENT FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE
(CAPE TOWN 1130) AS IMPLYING THAT SOUTH WEST AFRICA
CAN NO LONGER BECOME INDEPENDENT BY DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.
THE ARGUS REPORTED THAT IT HAD PUT THIS INTERPRETATION
TO BOTHA WHO REPLIED "THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE IS
FLEXIBLE IF THE LEADERS OF THE TERRITORY SHOULD
ASK US FOR A DIFFERENT DATE. WE BASE OURSELVES ON THE
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WISHES OF THE PEOPLE IN SWA AND THEIR LEADERS.
WHAT IS MORE, THE WESTERN PROPOSALS ALSO FIX THE
INDEPENDENCE DATE AS THE END OF THE YEAR AND WE
ACCEPTED THESE PROPOSALS."

2. THE SAME ARTICLE QUOTED PFP FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SPOKESMAN, JAPIE BSSON, AS STATING "WITH THE BEST

WILL IN THE WORLD THERE CANNOT BE INDEPENDENCE FOR
SWA BY THE END OF THE YEAR, EVEN IF THE WEST AND
SWAPO WERE TO AGREE TOMORROW TO THE TERMS."

3. THE ARTICLE RECITED AN ARGUS AFRICAN NEWS SERVICE
REPORT THAT ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN RECENTLY
SAID THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH ELECTIONS WHETHER
SWAPO TOOK PART OR NOT, HAD TO BE MADE WITHIN DAYS
OR AT THE MOST WITHIN WEEKS. STEYN REPORTEDLY SAID
THE LONG DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT
PROPOSALS WERE RAPIDLY ERODING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND
THE ECONOMY AND SLOWING THE POLITICAL MOMENTUM
INTERNALLY.

4. THE NEXT DAY, JUNE 10, WELL-CONNECTED SUNDAY TIMES
COLUMNIST, FLEUR DE VILLIERS, QUOTED "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES"
AS REVEALING THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL ANNOUNCE THE
REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN NAMIBIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW
DAYS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT, SHE SAID, WAS TO HAVE BEEN MADE
ON THURSDAY BUT WAS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE WEEKEND
AT THE URGENT REQUEST OF THE FIVE-NATION WESTERN
CONTACT GROUP. THE SOUTH AFRICAN
ANNOUNCEMENT, DE VILLIERS SAID, WAS NOT EXPECTED
TO HAVE "A LONG TERM PREJUDICIAL EFFECT ON THE
WESTERN PLAN"; IT WAS ALSO WIDELY EXPECTED, SHE SAID,
THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL COINCIDE WITH CERTAIN
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POSITIVE MEASURES IN THE TERRITORY, SUCH AS THE
FURTHER RELAXATION OF DISCRIMINATION.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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